

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Blackout: DirecTV ND Subs Lose ABC Stations During NBA Finals

With all the back-and-forth over the FCC's set-top proposal and broadband privacy rulemaking, retransmission consent reform isn't garnering many headlines. But it's still an area MVPDs are very anxious for the Commission to address. The latest dispute came Thurs as DirecTV lost Forum Communications' stations WDAY, WDAZ and KBMY, ABC affiliates in Grand Forks, Fargo and Bismarck, ND, respectively. The stations went dark at midnight and were still down Thurs afternoon. The blackout comes during the NBA finals, with DirecTV encouraging impacted customers to watch live at ABC.com or through the WatchABC app. "We intend to get Forum Communications' three local stations back into North Dakota customers' lineups and share their frustration," DirecTV said. "Forum is prohibiting its signals from reaching these customers' homes unless they receive a significant increase in their current fees just to let the same families keep watching shows that remain available for free over-the-air and often online at ABC.com or CWTV.com." WDAY's station manager did not return a request for comment by deadline. On its website, the station said Forum had granted DirecTV extensions after its contract expired March 31, claiming that the MVPD didn't respond to a Jan proposal until May 16. Impacted DirecTV markets include Fargo-Valley City, which stretches to Grand Forks, and Miniot-Bismarck-Dickinson. While the pay TV industry has been busy fighting other fires at the FCC these days, retrans is still a front burner issue. This week, Mediacom, DISH, ACA and other interested parties filed an ex parte describing a recent meeting with FCC staff on the agency's authority to require interim carriage of a broadcast stations as a means of remedying violations of "good faith" negotiations in terms of retrans negotiations. That meeting seemed to center around arguing that the Administrative Procedure Act is not an obstacle to such a requirement, with the group arguing that the FCC could take the action without having put the question out for comment at all. NAB continues to vigorously defend any changes to the rules, most recently attacking DISH's claims that the retrans consent regime is broken in the Commission's docket examining good faith negotiations. "Opening the door to more good faith complaints is the perfect invitation for DISH to abuse the system (as it had done in the past), to harass broadcasters, especially smaller ones, into submission, and to yet again exploit the Commission's honorable intentions for its own selfish gains," NAB wrote.

Wheeler Defends Set-top Proposal: FCC chmn Tom Wheeler's set-top proposal has been slammed by lawmakers from

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both sides of the aisle since Day 1. Well, don't expect Wheeler to back down anytime soon. In a recent letter to lawmakers with concerns about the proposal, Wheeler wrote that "thus far, our record is replete with comments from minority programmers who have been locked out from carriage on traditional cable networks. For the sake of these entrepreneurs and the audiences they hope to reach, we must move forward." Responding to concerns that the proposal would prevent innovation, violate copyright rules and undermine content licensing agreements, Wheeler said the proposed rules would provide minority and indie programmers with "an equal opportunity to reach their audiences. The proposal would facilitate competition in interfaces, search functions, and integration of programming sources, all of which would provide programmers with a greater ability to find audiences and consumers with a greater ability to access independent and minority programming." And for those few independent and minority-owned programmers who already have carriage on the traditional pay-TV system, nothing in the Commission's proposal disrupts existing contractual relationships between programmers and MVPDs, the chmn said. "The wisdom inherent in a notice-and-comment proceeding is that there is time for continuing an ongoing dialog. I look forward to such a dialog with you," said Wheeler. The letter, dated May 23, was posted Wed.

Google Cast to Fiber TV: Google added Google Cast, the same technology behind Chromecast, into the Fiber TV Box. That means Google Fiber TV customers can access linear and online content without changing inputs. And casting requires no additional equipment because Fiber TV comes with Google Cast technology built-in. Users can connect their compatible mobile device or laptop to Fiber WiFi, then tap the "Cast" button. Over the coming weeks, Google will start rolling out Google Cast on Fiber TV to all of its TV subs.

Buckeye Loses the Cable: Buckeye CableSystem is no more, with the company changing its name this month to Buckeye Broadband. Buckeye said the new moniker is meant to signify its increasing focus on HSD. The announcement really played up Buckeye's commitment to Internet, with additional broadband service options launching in the near- and short-term, though it added that it will continue to deliver all of its existing cable and broadcast channels. Some smaller operators, notably **Cable One**, have put an increasing emphasis on Internet, viewing it as more profitable than video.

Comcast Joins esports Craze: Add Comcast to the list of companies sticking a toe in the esports water. It's joining esports company **ESL** and esports org **Evil Geniuses** in a brand partnership. Xfinity will have branding opportunities at industry broadcasts, tournaments and events, and will outfit EG's training facilities with its "Gigabit Pro" Internet service and its X1 video product. You'll see the Xfinity brand immediately in the Halo Championship Series: Pro League Season 1 and this weekend's "Heroes of the Storm" live finals in L.A.

Everyone's After Millennials: The Pope's on Instagram, and the Catholic Network is expanding its digital outreach. **EWTN** acquired **ChurchPOP**, an online platform for "shareable Christian culture." EWTN chmn/CEO *Michael Warsaw* said the acquisition offers a new vehicle to engage millennials "who might not be reached by more traditional religious media."

Discovery's Deal in Croatia: Discovery Comm scored a new TV and multiplatform broadcast agreement for the Olympic Games, with **Croatian Radiotelevision**, the public broadcaster in Croatia. The deal will make the 2018 and 2020 Olympic Games available to Croatian viewers on HRT channels as well as Eurosport. As part of the agreement, HRT will sub-license from Discovery free-to-air audio visual and radio rights, for the 2018 and 2020 Olympic Games. In addition, HRT's sublicensing package includes digital rights to the content it broadcasts on its linear TV channel. Eurosport also has rights to air all of the Olympic Games content on pay-tv and through its digital platforms. The move followed an agreement announced by Discovery and the **International Olympic Committee** last June, which includes exclusive multimedia rights for 50 countries and territories in EU for the 2018 through the 2024 Olympic Games.

CableLabs at FTTH: With cable MSOs continuing to push Fiber-to-the-Home solutions, **CableLabs** is looking to increase its contributions at the 2016 **FTTH Connect** event to be held June 13-15 in Nashville. Among keynote speakers at the event are *Guy McCormick*, svp at **Cox**; *Jon Schnoor*, senior engineer of network technologies at CableLabs; and *Steve Burroughs*, lead architect at CableLabs. In addition, *Curtis Knittle*, vp of wired technologies at CableLabs, will host a panel regarding FTTH in cable. CableLabs has launched several initiatives to support ops that want to push fiber deeper into the HFC network, including FTTH. These solutions include DOCSIS Provisioning of EPON, Triple Play over PON and the group of specifications based on the Distributed CCAP Architecture.

Ratings: The UEFA Champions League Final on Sat in which Real Madrid beat city rivals Atletico Madrid 5-3 in a dra-

BUSINESS & FINANCE

matic match that went to penalties, is the most-watched event on **ESPN Deportes** ever, according to **Nielsen**. The match averaged 1.3mln Hispanic Viewers P2+, scoring a 5.0 Hispanic HH rating. That surpassed the UEFA Euro 2012 final that reached 1.1mln Hispanic viewers P2+ and a tie rating of 5.0 Hispanic HH. In total, the net's coverage of the league bagged a 1.0 Hispanic HH rating, up 11% YOY. It reached an average of 222K Hispanic viewers P2+, up 28% YOY.

Programming: "Versailles" is a biggie for **Ovation**. The network just launched its 1st trailer for the TV series, which was well received in France and the UK. It has the US rights to the epic drama following the rise of *King Louis XIV*. Get more info about the Oct 1 premiere at ovationtv.com/Versailles. -- On Sat at noon, **MTV** will bow "MTV's Proudest Moments," a half-hour special celebrating its history of LGBT inclusion and representation. MTV is also using Pride Month to launch digital series "No ID Required" (Mon launch).

People: **Starz** pres *Glenn Curtis* is retiring from his post effective July 1, according to an **SEC** filing. His compensation package includes a lump sum payment of \$828,750 as well as monthly payments for 2017. -- Former **NBCU** digital distribution svp *Jennifer Piro* has struck out on her own and launched **Pirot Media**, which provides advisory services for content owners, networks, programmers, distributors and aggregators.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	06/02 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	06/02 Close	1-Day Ch			
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS								
DISH:	53.68	2.95	HARMONIC:	2.84	UNCH			
ENTRAVISION:	7.23	0.04	INTEL:	31.76	0.10			
GRAY TELEVISION:	11.96	0.06	INTERACTIVE CORP:	55.81	0.66			
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.95	0.02	LEVEL 3:	53.75	0.45			
NEXSTAR:	52.88	UNCH	MICROSOFT:	52.48	(0.37)			
SINCLAIR:	32.08	0.07	NETFLIX:	101.25	(0.26)			
TEGNA:	23.30	0.58	NIELSEN:	53.72	0.13			
MSOS								
CABLE ONE:	511.84	11.50	SEACHANGE:	3.39	(0.02)			
CABLEVISION:	34.74	0.02	SONY:	28.00	0.14			
CHARTER:	227.82	0.32	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.77	0.02			
COMCAST:	63.66	(0.07)	SYNACOR:	3.14	0.03			
GCI:	14.98	0.14	TIVO:	9.95	0.13			
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	59.94	0.46	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	64.94	0.10			
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	38.43	1.04	VONAGE:	4.63	UNCH			
SHAW COMM:	19.12	(0.07)	YAHOO:	37.15	0.50			
SHENTEL:	33.33	1.42	TELCOS					
PROGRAMMING								
21ST CENTURY FOX:	29.55	0.20	AT&T:	38.84	0.11			
AMC NETWORKS:	64.55	(0.52)	CENTURYLINK:	27.12	0.22			
CBS:	55.40	0.23	FRONTIER:	5.16	0.09			
DISCOVERY:	28.30	0.49	TDS:	28.62	0.38			
DISNEY:	98.72	0.20	VERIZON:	50.77	0.34			
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	26.71	(0.25)	MARKET INDICES					
HSN:	52.66	0.32	DOW:	17838.56	48.89			
LIONSGATE:	23.38	0.57	NASDAQ:	4971.36	19.11			
MSG NETWORKS:	17.74	0.17	S&P 500:	2105.26	5.93			
SCRIPPS INT:	65.37	0.85						
STARZ:	27.98	0.58						
TIME WARNER:	76.75	0.34						
VIACOM:	49.21	0.78						
WWE:	17.79	0.07						
TECHNOLOGY								
ADVANTAGE:	1.76	(0.02)						
AMDOCS:	57.87	0.18						
AMPHENOL:	59.09	0.28						
APPLE:	97.72	(0.74)						
ARRIS GROUP:	24.57	0.06						
AVID TECH:	6.03	(0.05)						
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.36	(0.01)						
CISCO:	29.08	0.18						
COMMSCOPE:	31.81	0.25						
CONCURRENT:	6.31	0.04						
CONVERGYS:	28.31	(0.09)						
CSG SYSTEMS:	42.69	0.12						
EHOSTAR:	40.95	0.82						
GOOGLE:	730.40	(3.75)						

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PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

Feeding on Dysfunction...

Tony Soprano. Nurse Jackie. Walter White. Modern TV viewers love character flaws these days, and **AMC's** new drama "Feed the Beast" (premieres Sun) delivers the dysfunction in droves. In this dark but hopeful tale, two best friends try to climb out of their respective ruts by opening a Greek restaurant in the Bronx. Dion (*Jim Sturgess*) is a talented but drug-addicted chef just out of prison and in debt to the mob. And Tommy (*David Schwimmer*) is an alcoholic wine sommelier whose wife died in a hit-and-run a year ago and whose son hasn't spoken since. Truth be told, it's a show that requires some patience. "If people come to the party, they're going to stay," showrunner *Clyde Phillips* told us. A true "party" it is not, but the gratuitous shots of delicious food and a hopeful undercurrent could make audiences hungry for more. Phillips says Tommy and Dion will get their restaurant up and running by mid-season, but if the ominous tooth-extracting mob boss Woichik (*Michael Gladis*) has anything to say about it, we're guessing a few bumps in the road are inevitable. Interestingly enough, Phillips' own childhood in Boston included a butcher father who gambled and "was always in trouble with the small-time mobsters... so I know how to write these broken people." (Fittingly, "Broke" is the name of the Danish show upon which FTB is based). Schwimmer, who most people know as well-meaning Ross Geller on the sitcom "Friends," goes darker than ever here—which was all by design. "I told him, 'If you do this show, I'll put a bullet in the head of Ross Geller,'" says Phillips, noting one emotional scene during a support group in which Tommy breaks down. "I wrote that scene, and I totally didn't expect it to go there." In some ways, FTB goes certain places you expect but others you don't. And only time will tell whether people stay for the entire party. But for those who love dark dysfunction and a smattering of food porn, this show might just hit the spot. — *Michael Grebb*

Reviews: "Unreal," season II premiere, Monday, 10pm, **Lifetime**. The wild thing about this drama, a send-up of the making of a trashy reality dating show—you know, beautiful women in a mansion, all pursuing a handsome bachelor—is that it seems plausible. Season 2 finds fiery Quinn (*Constance Zimmer*) allowing her capable, yet depressed junior Rachel (*Shiri Appleby*) be the showrunner. But when creator Chet (a slim *Craig Bierko*) returns, Quinn retakes the reigns. Some watched "Mad Men" for Roger Sterling's (*John Slattery*) outlandish quips. Do the same with Quinn or Rachel. An example: "We don't solve problems, we create them... and then we point cameras at them." Highbrow it ain't, but "Unreal" can be an addiction. -- "Outcast," premiere, Friday, 10pm, **Cinemax**. With "Banshee" ended and "The Knick" in limbo, Cinemax looks to "Outcast" to be its dramatic flagship. From *Robert Kirkman* of "The Walking Dead" fame, Outcast is a well-crafted horror series that will not only scare viewers but also make them think. *Patrick Fugit* is mesmerizing as the lead pariah, heading a terrific cast. Don't miss the opening moments—they're bloody delicious. -- **Notable:** Pivot runs "An Inconvenient Truth" for 24 hours, beginning the morning of June 7 at 6 ET. "The Americans" ends its 4th season (Wednesday, 10pm, **FX**) with several thrilling plot twists. — *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings

(5/23/16-5/29/16)

Mon-Sun Prime

1	TNT	1.4	3196
2	ESPN	1.2	2710
3	FOXN	0.8	1822
4	USA	0.6	1471
4	HGTV	0.6	1360
6	DSNY	0.5	1268
6	TBSC	0.5	1258
6	HIST	0.5	1238
6	DISC	0.5	1232
6	NBCS	0.5	991
6	DSE	0.5	115
12	FX	0.4	945
12	ADSM	0.4	939
12	FOOD	0.4	898
12	ID	0.4	788
16	FRFM	0.3	771
16	MSNB	0.3	752
16	TLC	0.3	730
16	NAN	0.3	719
16	HALL	0.3	699
16	A&E	0.3	696
16	APL	0.3	657
16	CNN	0.3	654
16	LIFE	0.3	631
16	DSJR	0.3	619
16	AMC	0.3	611
16	SPK	0.3	599
16	LMN	0.3	531
16	OWN	0.3	514
16	NKJR	0.3	511
31	VH1	0.2	566
31	BRAV	0.2	563
31	TVLD	0.2	540
31	SYFY	0.2	481
31	GSN	0.2	481
31	EN	0.2	468
31	WETV	0.2	465
31	CMDY	0.2	453
31	MTV	0.2	429
31	INSP	0.2	417
31	HMM	0.2	404
31	NGC	0.2	399
31	TRAV	0.2	399
31	TRU	0.2	343

*Nielsen data, supplied by ABC/Disney, is based on coverage area of individual networks

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